

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EPA-01 AID-05 HEW-02 EUR-12

CEQ-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-10 EA-06 OIC-02 /057 W
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P R 191423Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8777

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 3027

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, US, BR

SUBJECT: SEMA CONFERENCE

FOR OES--ATTN: HERTER

REF: A. A-21 OF 2/13/75 2. BRASILIA 1021 3. STATE 57474

1.

AULO NOBUEIRA NETO, CHIEF OF SEMA AND HIS
DEPUTY CARLOS CELSO HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE
DEPARTMENT PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE FOR
THE IMPORTANT NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE
NOW SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2-6 IN BRASILIA:

A. CONTACT DR. VINCENT WITT, ADVISOR FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
(PAHO) AND A COORDINATOR FOR THE PRESENT CONFERENCE.
URGE HIM AND EPA TO PICK THE BEST THREE PEOPLE
POSSIBLE FROM EPA RANKS TO SUBSTITUTE FOR EXPERTS
ROHLICK, JEMSEN, AND MIDDLETON, WHOM WE UNDERSTAND ARE
UNABLE TO JOIN THE CONFERENCE AS PLANNED. PAHO,
ACCORDING TO CELSO, HAD AGREED TO UNDERWRITE THE TRIP
FOR THREE EXPERTS AND IS NOW WORKING WITH EPA TO SELECT
QUALIFIED PEOPLE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS. WITT HAS
THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

B. URGE EPA THROUGH FITZHUGH GREEN TO MAKE FORMER STAG
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RICHARD DEWLING AVAILABLE FOR THE CONFERENCE AND FUND

HIS TRIP. DEWLING MADE AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION ON SEMA OFFICIALS AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. (SEE REF. 1) HE OFFERED SUGGESTIONS ON THE CONFERENCE CONTENT AND PURPOSE WHICH THEY GREATLY VALUED. AMONG OTHER THINGS HE SHOWED SLIDES OF HOW TO HANDLE EMERGENCY OIL SPILLS AND COMMENTED ON VARIOUS METHODS TO COPE WITH THEM. UNFORTUNATELY, GUANABARA BAY EXPERIENCED A NASTY OIL SPILL VERY RECENTLY. CELSO REPORTED THAT THEY DREW ON DEWLINGS'S LECTURE TO TAKE REMEDIAL STEPS. ON THIS SUBJECT, THEY WANT DEWLING TO DISCUSS WITH THEM EXACTLY HOW TO ORGANIZE AND TRAIN AN EMERGENCY OIL SPILL TEAM.

2. FOR YEARS, THE U.S. MISSION HAS BEEN EAGER FOR THE GOB TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AREA IN LINE WITH U.S. POLICY OBJECTIVES. AT LAST THE BRAZILIAN MOMENTUM HAS BEGUN. THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (SEMA) WAS ESTABLISHED IN NOVEMBER, 1973. THE SEMA CONFERENCE, ITSELF A BENCHMARK, WILL BE A MAJOR EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CODE. EXPERTS FUNDED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS ARE COMING FROM JAPAN, SWEDEN, MEXICO AND WEST GERMANY. OTHER EXPERTS WILL BE FUNDED BY UNDP, WHO, AND PAHO. SOVIET AIR POLLUTION EXPERT L. ISMEROV IS EXPECTED. IT IS VERY MUCH IN THE U.S. INTEREST TO SUPPORT THE SEMA CONFERENCE WITH TOP QUALITY U.S. ENVIRONMENTALISTS, ESPECIALLY FROM EPA, THE U.S. ENTITY WITH WHICH SEMA WISHES TO EXPAND ITS RELATIONSHIP.

3. THE MISSION STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE SEMA REQUEST AND RECOMMENDS SIGNIFICANT EPA SUPPORT TO "A" AND "B". PLEASE ADVISE.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENVIRONMENT, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRASIL03027
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750138-0302
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750433/aaaabeyu.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 A-21, 75 OF 2/13/75, 75 BRASILIA 1021, 75 STATE 57474
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEMA CONFERENCE FOR OES--ATTN: HERTER
TAGS: SENV, US, BR, SEMA, (CELDO DO AMARAL E SILVA, CARLOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006